

He was Hall  
161 George Street  
New Brunswick  
New Jersey

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October 9, 1926

Dear Mr. Pfeiffer:

Mr. Neilson suggested my writing down everything I said to the man who said he came from Simpson, yesterday. I cannot do that, and having talked at length to Bob last night do not feel it necessary. But there are some things that you ought to know - or so it seems to me after a wakeful night. In particular one reply that I'm afraid I blundered sadly about. I could not tell Mrs. Hall as it seemed like a breach of confidence - talking of family affairs to such people.

I purposely spoke of Willie's great friendship for Mr. Hall, and after discussing that the man said: "Henry Stevens wasn't very friendly to Mr. Hall, was he?" I replied, "No, I don't think he was." "He wasn't at his sister's wedding?" "No". "Did Mrs. Hall ever tell you why this, the unfriendliness, was so?" "No, she didn't know, it was always a grief to her." That was the exact conversation as I remember it and goodness knows what they may make of it! They did not return to the subject so perhaps thought little of it.

I am very sorry and realize now that I should have replied to all those questions "I don't know". But my one idea in the whole trying conversation was to testify to Mrs. Hall's character as a very human, loving woman - suffering in spite of her great courage and the sense of humor and wit that have been her salvation. I realized at once that they felt an atmosphere of seclusion and reserve and that "don't know" answers would only increase it. Neither did I dare pause and hesitate as if I were making up an answer - so out came the simple truth - which in my mind only meant a certain amount of dislike, but which may so easily be distorted.

Another mistake, probably, was, when after endless questioning as to "had you never thought who might have done the murder", etc., I said that James Mills seemed a probable person and when they went on to ask and ask and ask if Mrs. Hall had ever suspected anyone I finally said, "I think at one time she thought as I did that Mr. Mills might have." Again "I don't know" would have been better and I regret very much the indiscretion. Those are the only two things I am sorry I said. One thing that I think was all right was this. Question "When you were away together did Mrs. Hall never talk about her husband and Mrs. Mills having been found together, etc." Answer - "She always said - "If only Edward were here he would explain it all."

20